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14 October 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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South Vietnam: [Signs continue that the Diem regime may be girding itself for a prolonged period of difficulty with the US.]

[In the past several days, there have been a number of reports that the government is already taking some austerity measures to deal with any major suspension of aid by the US as a means of applying pressure for reforms. These actions conceivably could foreshadow a government request for some reduction of the US presence. US Information Agency personnel, while noting a resumption of near-normal working relations with the Vietnamese since the lifting of martial law, continue to receive reports from reliable sources that Ngo Dinh Nhu is planning to request the withdrawal of their support operations at the field level.]

[An 11 October article in the English-language "Times of Vietnam," a mouthpiece for Nhu and his wife, carried charges that US agencies are officially embarked on a "semisecret policy of diplomatic and economic blackmail," undermining in practice the openly proclaimed US policy of supporting "the Vietnamese people and government" in the war against the Communists.]

[Meanwhile, the government apparently continues to carry out arrests of potential domestic opponents including a senior official of the country's leading trade union.]

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Communist China - Japan: [Peiping is making a strong bid for increased trade relations with Japan through overtures to unofficial but influential Japanese] []

[Peiping undoubtedly hopes to disrupt Japan's relations with its present allies, while widening Chinese nonbloc trade]

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[Peiping has just formed a China-Japan Friendship Association, is celebrating China-Japan friendship month, and has reportedly decided to double the number of Chinese cultural delegations to Japan in 1964]

[In Japan there has long been a widespread feeling that large-scale trade with its mainland neighbor is natural and inevitable. Recent events have encouraged a growing interest in the China market on the part of many trading and industrial concerns despite the generally cautious attitude of the government]

[Although Prime Minister Ikeda has been opposing any rapid expansion of trade or credit, he tends to share the opinion of several influential elder statesmen that in the long run increased economic contacts with the Chinese Communists on Japan's part would help the free world by "educating" the Chinese to present-day facts of life]

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Italy: Serious labor disorders may be developing which would complicate approaching negotiations by Christian Democrats and Socialists to form a government.

Both Communist and democratic unions have already begun protests against a "lockout" scheduled by a Rome construction association for 14-21 October to protest recent government measures it believes will raise its costs. A protest rally on 9 October was followed by a two-hour clash between Rome police units and some 15,000 construction workers. Numerous persons on each side were reported injured.

The shift from peaceful demonstration to violence appears to have been provoked by either Communist or neo-Fascist activists. The aim of either group would be to create a situation in which the Socialists would be rioting in company with the Communists--thus giving ammunition to opponents of Socialist - Christian Democratic rapprochement.

The Communist-dominated national labor confederation (CGIL)--to which the Socialist unions belong--now has called for a general strike on 15 October in Rome, where the head of the CGIL's Building Workers' Union is a Socialist.

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Dominican Republic: Anticoup demonstrations by students have broken out in several cities in protest against the ouster of President Juan Bosch and have intensified the atmosphere of general unrest. At least one person was killed during a student riot on 11 October, and further potentially explosive antigovernment demonstrations--especially by university students in Santo Domingo--may occur. Reports that nonstudent extremist agitators and troublemakers are mixing with the university students suggest that an extreme leftist and Communist-led campaign of violence against the new government may be attempted.

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